

# **State Advisory Committee (SAC) For the Education of Children with Disabilities**

**Advising the NH Department of Education per RSA 186-C:3-b**

**NHDOE, Room 15**

**4:30pm – 7:00pm**

**February 3, 2016**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Attended: SAC Members**

Maureen Tracey, (Chair), Bonnie Dunham (co-chair), Mike Pinard, Kestrel Cole-McCrea, Candace Cole-McCrea, Violetta Lortie, Lisa Hatz, Lynda Thistle-Elliott, Tom Grinley, Jason Henry, Janet Reed, Susan Marcotte-Jenkins, Heidi Cloutier, Jack Balcom, Kerri-Lynn Kimner

### **Guest(s):**

Santina Thibedeau, Administrator, Bureau of Special Education, Sarah Fox, DCYF for Eileen Mullen, Helen Hanks, Assistant Commissioner, NH Department of Corrections, Ann Davis, Education Director, NH Department of Corrections

Welcome, Introductions of SAC Members & Guests

- Maureen began the meeting at approximately 4:37pm
- All attendees introduced themselves and stated their role

### **Nominations:**

Ann Davis, Education Director, NH Department of Corrections will be nominated by the Department of Corrections to the Governor's office for appointment.

### **Approval of Minutes**

- Approval of January 6, 2016 Meeting Minutes
  - There were not enough members to have a quorum to approve the January Minutes.

### **Public Comment & Announcement**

Bonnie participated in OSEP's Virtual Conference, February 2<sup>nd</sup> and February 3<sup>rd</sup>; distributed a Handout from the Virtual Conference which outlines:

- History of IDEA
- Stories
- Resources
- Policy

Bonnie distributed a "Dear Colleague" letter from OSEP, "the purpose of the guidance is to provide State and local educational agencies with information to assist them in meeting their obligations under the IDEA and its implementing regulations in developing IEP for children with disabilities."

Bonnie distributed a flyer for the O'Neill Tabani Enrichment Scholarship ~ Empowering People with Down syndrome to Pursue Postsecondary Education. To learn more: [www.ndss.org/OTEF](http://www.ndss.org/OTEF)

## **Updates from SAC Liaisons and Legislative Update, including updates from SAC's representatives from the General Court**

Representative Jack Balcom

- ❖ HB1612, relative to the age for purposes of compulsory education (lowers the compulsory education age to 16). An attempt to lower the age from 18 back to 15; majority of committee not in agreement to lower to 16.
- ❖ HB 1604, relative to instructional methods to enable students to acquire and apply requisite knowledge and skills. Going to pass
- ❖ HB 1644, relative to screening and treatment for dyslexia and related disorders and establishing a reading specialist in the [DOE]. Jack is sponsoring and there is more evidence/increase in in-school and out-of-school suspensions for K to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade; if not reading disengaged from the classroom. Schools currently implementing PBIS have seen a decrease in suspensions. A committee will be set up to look at the reason for the large number of suspensions in this age group.
- ❖ SB316, relative to placement decisions by a child's individualized education program team. Recommended, ought to pass, child change of assignment doesn't apply to special education placements.
- ❖ SB439, establishing a commission to study the shortage of nurses for pediatric home health services. (Members include representatives from SAC, Bonnie, Maureen and Santina not aware of SAC on the commission).
- ❖ SB 483, establishing the position of chartered public school program officer. New SAC representative is needed.

Jack passed around a handout of fifteen (15) additional items that won't affect SAC; full day kindergarten, dyslexia bill, etc., as well as legislative numbers for bills that passed today.

### **Legislative Updates**

*Bonnie reviewed her Legislative updates with SAC members*

- ❖ SB 534 to implement a system of care for children's behavior health; might be of interest to partnership.
- ❖ HB 536 relative to payment for special education services for chartered public school students and relative to federal funds for chartered public schools. Charter schools and funding issues, funds going to pay for the services.
- ❖ HB 581, requiring schools to continue the education of a child during the child's suspension or expulsion. Representative Gile sponsored last year, went to interim study.
- ❖ HB 1338, relative to student exemption from the statewide assessment.
- ❖ HB 1372, permitting a child with a disability to use audio or video recording devices in the classroom. Audio/video doesn't apply to special education students; NHDOE issued a technical advisory on this. School wide, yes permission needed for all students.
- ❖ HB 1442 relative to objections to proposed agency rules under the administrative procedure act. NH Rules for the Education of Children with Disabilities have to go through the JLCAR; enter Rule making every 90 days, reduce the time to two (2) years.
- ❖ HB 1667, repealing the statutes authorizing the department of education. House Committee unanimously voted to not repeat the DOE.

## **Presentations on Issues related to Special Education and Incarcerated Students with Disabilities**

Ann Davis, the new Education Director for the NH Department of Corrections presented: *NH Department of Corrections: Community Corrections Division Corrections Special School District (CSSD)*

- Vision
- Mission
- About Corrections Special School District
- CSSD Organization and Governance
- CSSD Facilities
- Programs and Services
- Philosophy
- Granite State High School
- Summary of Services
- Career & Technical Education Center
- Special Education

Questions followed:

- Number of inmates with diploma/GED vs. no diploma/GED.
- Santina provided information with reference to Granite State High School
  - not many inmates between the ages of 18-21.
  - If students exited special education prior to being incarcerated, services are not provided.
  - If a student is 17 incarcerated and doesn't have any IEP, may be evaluated.
- People in Corrections, how many are NH residents? How many are not getting services?
- SAC looks at unmet needs of students with disabilities, 3 through 21 year old, not counting the students who are incarcerated.

Jason Henry, Superintendent, Carroll County House of Corrections presented on the Houses of Correction

- There are ten (10) Houses of Correction (HOCs) and each HOC operates differently.
- Inmates sentenced over a year, sent to Department of Corrections; sentenced under a year to a House of Corrections.
- In 08-09 legislation was passed that the NHDOE and HOCs needed to create an Inter-Agency Agreement.
- Special Education services
  - Monthly/weekly the HOC send a list to the NHDOE of all inmates
  - NHDOE verifies if inmates is eligible for Special Education services
  - NHDOE notifies school district of inmate at HOC in need of special education services
  - HOCs are not seeing the school districts send teachers to the facilities to work with the identified inmates.
- Average stay at HOC is 45 days
- Strafford County HOC differs from other HOCs due to funding and provides education to all incarcerated provides FAPE for all inmates. Medium age is 26.
- Commonly incarcerated persons have some sort of emotional and/or mental illness.
- Inmates, residents of New Hampshire and have an IEP, January – December 2015

Hillsborough ~ 11	Grafton ~ 5	Carroll ~	Cheshire ~
Strafford ~ 3	Belknap ~ 1	Coos ~	
Merrimack ~	Sullivan ~ 0	Rockingham ~	

## **Bureau Update ~ Santina**

- Over the past few years there has been a high turnover of Special Education Administrators; currently on the critical shortage list through credentialing.
- The Bureau holds quarterly meetings for Special Education Directors/Administrators.
- The Bureau has issued FY'16 Memo #22 for twelve (12) mentors "Special Education Mentoring Program." After 12 mentors have been selected; the Bureau will issue a memo for mentees. Mentors and mentees meet at least twice a month.
  - Mentors will receive a stipend for their time. Kudos to the Bureau for doing this.
- The Bureau has issued two (2) application for Distinguished Educators:
  - 2016 Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Distinguished Educator Program
  - 2016 Special Education Teacher of Blind and Vision Disabilities Distinguished Educator Program
- Fourteen months ago, fourteen agencies came together with a need; Understood.org is a website with free parent friendly resources for children with learning difficulties; pool from the best and brightest to get help for children.
- The Bureau has not brought the proposed Rules to the State Board as the private providers gave the Bureau presented input; the Bureau brought together a stakeholder group: "Private Providers have these concerns and we would like your input." Private providers can only increase their rates by the consumer rate index (.03/.05). Joint rate setting with DHHS to set, the NHDOE will not agree to this as governed under DHHS, NHDOE has no jurisdiction over and cannot review.
- Rates for residential programs, programs closing due to funding; residential rate is set by DHHS.
- Rules will be brought forward to the Department's attorney as there are no more stakeholder group meetings.

## **Old Business**

- Maureen
  - Candace opened the opportunity for SAC members to visit the Strafford County HOC; cannot visit as a member of SAC, but as an individual we can.

## **New Business, Emerging Issues, Announcements, Current Events, Public Comment**

- Bonnie distributed a draft of the Bylaws for SAC using information from Annual Reports; requested SAC members come prepared next month to pull something together.
- Heidi place flyers available on the table for upcoming training/conferences:
  - RENEW Facilitator Training Institute
  - 2016 Conference on School Culture, Climate & Positive Behavior Support
  - PBIS Universal Team Retreats

At 7:12pm Bonnie made a motion to adjourn, Jason seconded. All in agreement. Motion passes.

Next meeting ~ Wednesday, March 2, 2016, 4:30pm-7:00pm ~ NHDOE, Room 15